

Lansdowne, PA -- On Sunday, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), attended a breakfast at the Lansdowne YMCA. The event was planned by the Lansdowne YMCA Teen Leaders Club. . This program works with teen's to develop leadership skills in our youth. This program meets at the YMCA weekly with events on the weekends.

The proceeds for today's pancake breakfast benefit the Lansdowne YMCA Teen Leaders Club "As someone who is committed to helping children, I was pleased this morning to not only enjoy a great breakfast, but support the YMCA and our local teens," noted Joe. "I support the YMCA's vision of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities, and encouraging local YMCAs to participate in public policy."

The Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County is a charitable corporation, dedicated to building healthy spirit, mind and body. It's committed to being a positive part of family life in Eastern Delaware County by promoting the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Since being sworn in, Joe has taken a tour of the Ridley Area YMCA and the Upper Main Lime YMCA.

The Lansdowne Branch now has a second floor and a swimming pool. Eleven years ago, the Ridley Branch was built. In 1997, the Wellness Center was completed addition and in 2004, construction began on a new child care addition at the Ridley Branch. Last year the St. John Child Care Center was opened in Lansdowne.

Joe has also expressed his support for the YMCA of Eastern Delaware County, because it provides care for over 400 children. The new child care addition at the Ridley Branch will enable them to serve 80 more families in need of affordable child care programs. The summer camp program gives over 500 families a safe place for their children when school is out and parents are at work.

Annually, it teaches over 3,500 children how to swim, coach over 350 children in its youth sports programs, host over 200 teens at the YMCA for dances, and it serves 700 teens monthly at Splash Parties.

Similarly, Joe recently Joe signed a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Budget Committee to urge the Committee to ensure that it includes sufficient funding to continue the success of the State's Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Joe believes that SCHIP reauthorization will be one of the most important issues for children in the 110th Congress.

Since 1997, in conjunction with improvements states have made to Medicaid, SCHIP has contributes to a one-third decline in the uninsured rate of low-income children. Joe is committed to working on SCHIP reauthorization to continue our nation's great progress in covering more uninsured needy children.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. Congress.*

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